



VYTAUTAS MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Political Science and
Diplomacy

International Conference

Understanding Late Soviet Period in the 21st Century: Reflections on History, Collective Memory, Ecology and Economics

Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy, Vytautas Magnus University

November 17-18, 2011

The last decade of the 20th century was marked by fundamental transformations towards democratization and liberalization in Central and Eastern Europe. Young researchers may have different attitudes towards the social, political, economic and cultural transformations than their senior colleagues who were either participants or observers of those events. Due to the less emotional attachment, the young generation is able to provide a more precise identification of the ongoing social tensions and collisions that started at the end of the 20th century.

The aim of the conference is to encourage young researchers to re-evaluate political, economic, social and cultural changes in Central and Eastern Europe at the end of the 20th century and share their approach with senior colleagues with a mutual goal of understanding each other's point of view. Conference organizers welcome original insights about the period which was crucial in setting up the principles of today's democratic society.

The conference addresses the following topics:

- Transition from the planned to market economy: drama and tensions;
- The concept of citizenship after 1990: between passion and irony;
- Old and new collectivism: community crisis passed or obtained?
- Nationalism: game, instrument, power or inertia?
- Democratization of public sphere: between engagement and anomie;
- New challenges for art and artists: diversity articulation and fear of management;
- Development of environmental consciousness and risk construction.

After the conference, selected papers will be published in the peer-reviewed publication.